

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for enabling a billing configuration, the method comprising:

receiving first data regarding a communications characteristic;

retrieving second data indicative of ~~a frequency of usage related to~~ a number of accounts associated with the communications characteristic;

retrieving third data indicative of a frequency of usage threshold that indicates a limit on a total number of accounts to be associated with the communications characteristic;

comparing the second data to the third data; and

based on results of the comparison between the second data and the third data, enabling a billing configuration.

24. (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein the first data includes data relating to a telephone number.

25. (Original): The method of claim 23 wherein the first data includes data indicative of a user name.

26. (Original): The method of claim 24 wherein the second data indicates historical information regarding past attempts to enable the user configuration based on the first data.

27. (Original): The method of claim 26 wherein the historical information is defined over a specified period of time.
28. (Previously presented): The method of claim 23 wherein the first data includes Automatic Number Identification (ANI) data.
29. (Currently amended): A method for enabling a user configuration, the method comprising:
- receiving data regarding a communication characteristic;
  - identifying a formatting characteristic of the data received;
  - comparing the formatting characteristic against [[a]] format criteria; [[and]]  
determining whether the formatting characteristic of the data received satisfies the format criteria; and
  - ~~enabling a user configuration based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria~~ if the formatting characteristic of the data received satisfies the format criteria.
30. (Original): The method of claim 29 wherein the communications characteristic includes a telephone number.
31. (Original): The method of claim 29 wherein the formatting characteristic and the format criteria each include length.
32. (Original): The method of claim 31 wherein the length includes a number of characters.
33. (Previously presented): The method of claim 29 wherein the format criteria require only numeric data in the received data.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended): A system for enabling a billing configuration comprising:  
means for receiving first data regarding a communications characteristic;  
means for retrieving second data indicative of ~~a frequency of usage related to~~ a number of accounts associated with the communications characteristic;  
means for retrieving third data indicative of a frequency of usage threshold that indicates a limit on a total number of accounts to be associated with the communications characteristic;  
means for comparing the second data to the third data; and  
means for enabling a billing configuration based on results of the comparison between the second data and the third data.

36. (Currently amended): A system for enabling a user configuration comprising:  
means for receiving data regarding a communication characteristic;  
means for identifying a formatting characteristic of the data received;  
means for comparing the formatting characteristic against ~~[[a]]~~ format criteria; ~~[[and]]~~  
means for determining whether the formatting characteristic of the data received satisfies the format criteria; and  
means for enabling a user configuration ~~based on results of the comparison between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria~~ if the formatting characteristic of the data received satisfies the format criteria.

37-47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) The method of claim 23 further comprising preventing the billing configuration if the number of accounts associated with the communications characteristic exceeds the limit on the total number of accounts to be associated with the communications characteristic.

49. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

identifying the formatting characteristic of the data received includes an improper format;  
determining whether the data received can be reformatted to include a proper formatting characteristic; and

reformatting the data received to include a proper formatting characteristic if the data received can be reformatted to include the proper formatting characteristic.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising:

determining whether the reformatted data received is appropriate for a billing configuration;

determining whether a number of accounts associated with the reformatted data received is less than a threshold amount; and

enabling the user configuration if the reformatted data received is appropriate for the billing configuration and if the number of accounts associated with the reformatted data received is less than the threshold amount.

51. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

determining whether the data received is appropriate for a billing configuration;

determining whether a number of accounts associated with the data received is less than a threshold amount; and

enabling the user configuration if the data received is appropriate for the billing configuration and if the number of accounts associated with the data received is less than the threshold amount.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 further comprising denying the user configuration if the data received is not proper for enabling the billing configuration.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein denying the user configuration includes denying the user configuration if the data received is associate with a prison.

54. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein denying the user configuration includes denying the user configuration if the data received is associated with a toll free number.

55. (New) The method comprising:  
receiving data regarding a communication characteristic;  
identifying a formatting characteristic of the data received;  
comparing the formatting characteristic against format criteria;  
using a comparison of format between the formatting characteristic and the format criteria as a condition precedent to allowing a user configuration to be enabled; and  
allowing the user configuration to be enabled if the formatting characteristic satisfies the format criteria.